



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

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April 23, 2004

TO: File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist *PBB*

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Miracle Rock Mining and Research, Walker Flat Mine, S/015/081, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: April 7, 2004
Time of Inspection: About 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.
Conditions: Light rain, cloudy, 50's
Participants: Dave Taylor, Miracle Rock; Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

There was no specific purpose for the inspection. I was in the area, and since I hadn't been to the site in a few years, I decided to see how things have progressed.

Observations:

We looked at an area that I believe was reclaimed in 2002 (Photo 1). Although there were a lot of weeds in this area, there were also numerous seedling shadscale plants. I do not remember seeing any grasses. I expect the shadscale to continue to grow and provide good vegetation cover.

We looked briefly at two areas that were reclaimed last year. One has a sandstone-derived soil, but parent material for the other soil is shale. The operator did a good job applying soil and leaving these sites rough, but we will have to wait to see how vegetation become established.

Photos 2 and 3 are of the area being mined. The operator is saving soil and has put a berm around the lower end of the disturbed area to keep runoff from going in the adjacent ephemeral drainage.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Mr. Taylor asked what recommendations I would make, and I could think of none. We should monitor the reclaimed areas to see if vegetation becomes established, and some remedial work could potentially be required there.

PBB:jb

cc: Dave Taylor, Miracle Rock
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ATTACHMENT

Photographs

S/015/081, Walker Flat Mine, Miracle Rock Mining and Research

Inspection Dated: April 7, 2004; Report Dated: April 23, 2004



Photo 1. Area reclaimed in about 2002. Note the numerous small shadscale plants.



Photo 2. Part of the area being mined. Note the soil stockpile and the few feet of overburden.



Photo 3.